

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RUSSIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR AT PUSHKIN INSTITUTE'S
PROGRAM OF CENTER FOR FOREIGN STUDY

REF: 76 STATE 001964

1. EMBOFF MET JANUARY 7 WITH MUSHINKOV, CHIEF OF
MHE'S RUSSIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION DIVISION, AND
PUSHKIN INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SOKHIN FOR DIS-
CUSSION OF CENTER FOR FOREIGN STUDY'S INTEREST IN
SENDING GROUPS TO STUDY AT PUSHKIN INSTITUTE. MEETING
WAS FRANK BUT FRIENDLY, AND QUITE INFORMATIVE.

2. EMBOFF BEGAN BY RECOUNTING ALL THAT GALE OF CFS
HAD DONE THUS FAR IN HIS EFFORT TO HAVE CFS-SPONSORED
STUDENTS ACCEPTED AT PUSHKIN. EMBOFF POINTED OUT
THAT IS WAS U.S. SIDE'S VIEW THAT ACCEPTANCE OF CFS
APPLICANTS SHOULD BE COVERED BY SECTION 1 PARAS
5 AND 6 OF THE NEW CULTURAL PROGRAM IS THE SOVIETS
WERE INDEED INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING THE STUDY OF
RUSSIAN.

3. MUSHINKOV REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE VERY
INTERESTED BUT THAT THE PROGRAM AT PUSHKIN INSTITUTE
IN INTENDED ONLY FOR THOSE WHO PLAN TO BECOME TEACHERS
OF RUSSIAN. SOKHIN EXPLAINED THAT THE NUMBER OF PLACES
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AVAILABLE FOR AMERICANS AT THE INSTITUTE IS LIMITED TO
125 AND THAT THERE IS KEEN COMPETITION FOR THESE SPOTS
ALREADY. SOKHIN CITED THE ACTR, OHIO STATE, AND
MIDDLEBURY PROGRAMS AS THE LEADING SOURCES OF HIGHLY-
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS. SOKHIN SAID IT WAS HIS UNDER-
STANDING THAT ACTR HAD RECEIVED FIVE HUNDRED APPLICATIONS
FOR THE TWENTY-FIVE PLACES IT HAS AT PUSHKIN.

4. SOKHIN ADDED THAT THE PUSHKIN INSTITUTE HAS DEVELOPED CLOSE PROFESSIONAL TIES WITH THOSE WHO RUN THE ACTR, OHIO STATE, AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND THAT THEY HAVE COME TO RESPECT THEIR JUDGMENT AS LANGUAGE TEACHERS. IN CONTRAST, SOKHIN SAID, GALE APPEARED TO BE A PERSISTENT BUSINESSMAN WHO IS INTERESTED IN SENDING "AMATEURS", STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING RUSSIAN BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN BECOMING LANGUAGE TEACHERS AND WHO ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE RIGOROUS SELECTION PROCESSES USED BY ACTR, EL AL. SOKHIN SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR ADVICE ON THIS MATTER FROM SEVERAL AMERICANS CONNECTED WITH ACTR, WHO, HE SAID, RECOMMENDED THAT THE PUSHKIN INSTITUTE NOT ACCEPT CFS AS A PARTNER BUT STICK TO ITS INTENTION TO ACCEPT ONLY FUTURE PHILOLOGISTS SPONSORED BY EITHER THE ACTR OR AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT GALE'S NOMINEES ALSO WERE FROM WELL-KNOWN U.S. UNIVERSITIES BUT SOKHIN RETURNED TO THE FACT THAT ACTR HAD APPROXIMATELY TWENTY APPLICANTS FOR EACH SLOT, WHILE GALE SEEMS TO BE PREPARED TO TRY TO SEND ANYONE WHO CAN PAY.

5. SOKHIN AND MUSHINKOV INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE INTOURIST OR SPUTNIK LANGUAGE PROGRAMS WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE KIND OF STUDENT GALE WISHED TO SEND. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT GALE HAD LEFT USSR WITH IMPRESSION THAT PUSHKIN WAS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING HIS STUDENTS AND HENCE HAS NOT PURSUED OTHER POSSIBILITIES.

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TIES. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED FOR THE STUDENTS INVOLVED WHO HAVE BEEN AWAITING WORD ON WHETHER THEY WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IN THE USSR AND WHO, IF NOT, NEED TO MAKE ALTERNATE PLANS. SOKHIN SAID HE SHARED THIS CONCERN RE STUDENTS AND THAT PUSHKIN IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AT LEAST SOME CFS-SPONSORED STUDENTS FOR THE TERM BEGINNING FEBRUARY ONE. SOKHIN EXPLAINED THIS IS STRICTLY AN EXCEPTION AND THAT NO FUTURE CFS GROUPS WOULD BE RECEIVED. SOKHIN COVERED HIMSELF, HOWEVER, BY SAYING THAT THE CFS STUDENTS CAN STUDY AT PUSHKIN THIS SPRING "IF THE SOVIET EMBASSY ISSUES THEM VISAS." HE REPEATED THIS SEVERAL TIMES IN RESPONDING TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS AND WHILE HE COULD PULL A FAST ONE AND USE NON-ISSUANCE OF VISAS AS AN ESCAPE FROM HIS PROMISE TO TAKE THE CFS GROUP, WE SUSPECT IT WAS MERELY INTENDED TO POINT OUT TO EMBOFF THAT HIS STATEMENT THAT PUSHKIN IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE CFS STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT ALL ARE GUARANTEED NOW OF ACTUALLY COMING.

6. GALE SHOULD, THEREFORE, SUBMIT VISA APPLICATIONS FOR ALL SOONEST TO SOVIET EMBASSY, CITING MUSHINKOV AND SOKHIN AS THE PERSONS TO BE CONTACTED HERE. IF HE WISHES TO CONTINUE SENDING STUDENTS AFTER THE COMING TERM, GALE MAY HAVE TO RETURN TO THE USSR TO CHECK WITH INTOURIST AND SPUTNIK RE THEIR LANGUAGE PROGRAMS.

7. COMMENT. WE FIND PUSHKIN'S INTEREST IN CONCENTRATING ON FUTURE RUSSIAN TEACHERS COMPLETELY LOGICAL AND SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT POLICY WILL BE CHANGED BEFORE THE INSTITUTE'S NEW FACILITIES, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTIONS, ARE COMPLETE, IF THEN. SOKHIN EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT INTTUTE IS RELYING HEAVILY ON JUDGMENT OF DAVIDSON ANDPIERCE OF ACTR IN REGARD TO CFS AND GALE WILL HAVE TO TRY TO WIN THEM OVE IF HE HOPES TO EFFECT A CHANGE IN PUSHKIN'S POLICY.
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